

**Educational Leadership
Doctoral Program (ELDP)**

Student Handbook

Educational Doctorate (Ed.D.)

Educational Leadership and
Administration Program

School of Teacher Preparation,
Administration and Leadership (TPAL)

College of Education
New Mexico State University

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School of Teacher Preparation, Administration, and Leadership

Vision

We serve the State of New Mexico, borderlands and global communities with socially responsive scholarship, innovative programs, and collaborative initiatives in education that foster and enhance the capacity of educators and communities to advance equity, democracy, and social justice in education and society.

Mission

As a School within a land-grant and Hispanic Serving Institution, we support and advocate for equitable education for all, especially historically marginalized and multicultural/multilingual communities and students with exceptionalities. We accomplish this through teaching, scholarship, public service, the preparation of teachers and leaders, and collaborations across the disciplines and with our constituents.

Doctoral Studies in Educational Leadership and Administration

The mission of the Educational Leadership and Administration (ELA) Program at New Mexico State University (NMSU) is to prepare and graduate capable, skillful and dynamic educational leaders for a diverse society. Through the

use of theory and practice we aim to develop change agents and role models for socially just educational systems.

Social Justice Focus

The ELA Program has a long-standing and long-term commitment to educational programs that embrace all students and promote within leaders an understanding of the necessity of upholding social justice. There are numerous definitions of social justice. Generally speaking, social justice is about assuring the protection of equitable access to liberties, rights, and opportunities, as well as taking care of the least advantaged members of society. Thus, whether something is just or unjust depends on whether it promotes or hinders equality of access to civil liberties, human rights, opportunities for healthy and fulfilling lives, as well as whether it allocates a fair share of benefits to the least advantaged members of society. Please remember that throughout the duration of your doctoral program, your studies will be anchored in the ideas and tenets of social justice. This is a program rooted in social justice and educational equity.

Brief reading list of social justice and educational leadership:

- Jean-Marie, G., Normore, A., & Brooks, J. (2009). Leadership for social justice: Preparing 21st century school leaders for a new social order. *Journal of Research on Leadership Education*, 4(1), 1-31.
- Marshall, C. & Oliva, M. (2006). *Leadership for social justice: Making revolutions in education*, Boston, MA: Pearson Education.
- Theoharis, G. (2007). Social justice educational leaders and resistance: Toward a theory of social justice leadership. *Educational Administration Quarterly*, 43(2), 221-258.

The ELA Program adheres to the standards and guidelines defined by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), the University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA), and the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED).

ELA doctoral students should anticipate advanced academic challenges and expectations beyond the nominal acquisition of graduate credit. The doctoral program should expand students' horizons, provide a platform for students to meet new challenges in their professions, and transform them into scholars and leaders. In pursuing a doctoral degree, students are engaged in a new relationship to the acquisition of knowledge so they may:

- Appreciate research as a critical analytical skill
- Share an aspiration to cumulative collective knowledge
- Connect educational beliefs to a variety of theoretical foundations
- Understand practical implications of educational beliefs
- Facilitate learning within diverse communities

The Educational Leadership Doctoral Program

The ELA Program mission is upheld and practiced in the Educational Leadership Doctoral Program (ELDP). ELDP represents the unique opportunity and responsibility ELA has to prepare educational leaders for socially just leadership, to foster educational programs, and to meet the needs of students across the state and along the U.S./Mexico border.

Students in ELDP should anticipate the academic rigor ELA embraces as its mission and NMSU maintains as a “High Research Activity” University.

- Concentrations include: *PK-12 Educational Administration; Community College Administration; University Administration.*

ELA has structured this program to meet the needs of full-time educators and administrators. The ELDP is a hybrid model involving face-to-face instruction and the use of distance education media (please note the University charges an additional fee per credit hour for all courses using distance education components). ELDP utilizes a cohort model in which students in each admitted cohort take all their ELA classes together, separating only when students enter the semester of their comprehensive exam. We have chosen this model because it has been shown to be related to higher student completion rates (Lei, Gorelick, Short, Smallwood, & Wright-Porter, 2011). Efforts for retaining educational leaders in a doctoral program are based on professional standards, educational trajectory and relatively high institutional expectations (Suleiman & Whetton, 2014). The cohort model provides support systems not intended to be rigid, however helpful insuring support, pace, evolution and direction for students in respective programs (Suleiman & Whetton, 2014). All ELDP students should be prepared, each semester, to participate in five weekends of classes (approximately one per month). Four of these weekends will be face-to-face classes. The four weekends will be at the Las Cruces campus in O’Donnell Hall, the College of Education building

Additionally, there will be one weekend of classes that will be asynchronously facilitated through distance education modalities. Students should be prepared to work concurrently through spring, summer, and fall semesters with limited breaks in study/coursework.

Distance Education

ELDP is a distance education program. This means all distance education courses from NMSU are delivered using the most innovative technology and methods available, including web-based technologies, Interactive Television, faculty exchanges, and off-site classes. Students are responsible for paying the NMSU distance education fees throughout the duration of the program.

NOTE: NMSU and ELA offices send emails **only to NMSU student email accounts.**

- Please check this account regularly to avoid missing important information regarding grades, course billing, deadlines, etc.

Ed.D. Degree

The Ed.D. degree was designed to prepare educational administration practitioners. ELA offers all 63 credit hours of coursework required for the Ed.D. degree. Students must complete the entire ELDP course of study, pass the comprehensive exam, and successfully defend their dissertation in front of the dissertation committee. Students must also attend two research-focused conferences at their own expense. Course requirements are outlined in the Schedule of Course Offerings (page 11). More information about the dissertation and the research conferences is provided in an upcoming section of this handbook.

Action Research Dissertation Guidelines:

- Draw on the knowledge, skills, and understanding that they have acquired in their doctoral studies to examine and address a significant problem of practice within their immediate community
- Directly benefit practitioners, the public and the community
- Demonstrate student's ability to carry out disciplined inquiry in accordance with ELA's standards of performance, which prepares students to skillful and dynamic educational leaders for a diverse society and develop change agents and role models for socially-just educational systems
- Focus on making a positive difference in a local education setting in which the candidate is currently serving
- Investigate a problem and research systematically through a form of disciplined inquiry
- Make sound, defensible, research-based judgments regarding how current practices can be undertaken more effectively and efficiently
- Report the research and findings of the action to an external audience

- Recommend practices, programs, and/or policies to challenge dominate assumptions and beliefs about teaching, learning, leadership, and what it means to be a professional in a socially-just system
- Consider the needs of specific individuals and the characteristics of particular contexts

Features of Action-Research Dissertations:

- The scale should be substantial enough to demonstrate positive benefits for the participants and/or school and doable while working in a full-time position
- The action is informed by the literature in the field
- The resources used are generally already available in the candidate's educational work setting and the surrounding educational community
- The final product is a reader-friendly written report describing the needs addressed, the action taken and reasons why, the consequences for participants, and lessons learned by the author
- Readers should be able to apply your work to their own contexts and have enough information to replicate a study in a manner similar to yours

Changing Between the Ed.D. Degree and Ph.D. Degree

If you wish to change your degree mid-program you must complete the following steps: (1) provide a formal letter with your written rationale to your advisor for the change, (2) obtain ELA advisor approval, (3) obtain ELA department head approval, and (4) agree to any additional requirements and potential delay of completion, if applicable. You have until August 1st of the next calendar year from start of the program to make this change (approximately 1 year). You can only change your degree **ONE** time.

Doctoral Admissions Policy

Each October, ELA will post-doctoral application materials on the program website (<https://ela.nmsu.edu/index/academics/docpage/>). Step-by-step instructions will guide applicants in compiling the required materials. Completed applications must be received in our office by 5 pm MST on January 15th (or the first business day after this date if January 15th falls on a weekend or holiday). **There are no exceptions to this deadline.**

Additionally, to be considered for selection, NMSU requires students to apply to the NMSU Graduate School. This is entirely separate from the ELA application. The Graduate School application requires students submit all required documents directly to the Graduate School as indicated on their website (<http://prospective.nmsu.edu/graduate/apply/index.html>). ELA will

not forward documents sent by mistake. The Graduate School application must also be completed by January 15th at 5 pm MST. Again, there are no exceptions to this deadline.

Students will be notified of their acceptance by mid-spring of the application year. Accepted students will be asked to complete a form verifying their desire to join the next cohort of doctoral students. Failure to return the signed copy (via mail, fax, or e-mail) by the deadline indicated on the form will result in forfeiture of acceptance. Once accepted, students must also attend a mandatory orientation.

Mandatory Student Orientation

In the summer before the new ELDP cohort begins taking classes, ELA hosts a required student orientation. This orientation is scheduled on a Saturday, typically in July, and lasts the full day. Students will receive information about the ELDP program and about NMSU, as well as training on the use of CANVAS, which is the course platform that hosts the online portion of each course. Additionally, students will receive training on using the NMSU library and requesting items remotely, receive information about how to register for fall courses, and meet with the instructors of the courses. Students who do not attend this orientation will be dropped from the cohort.

Standards for Student Social Conduct: Core Values and Behavioral Expectations

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity, and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, language, sexual orientation, gender variance, and nationalities. For further information, please see the link below to the University Standards for Social Conduct. The Program adheres to this code of conduct.

<https://studenthandbook.nmsu.edu/student-social-code-of-conduct/part-iii-standards-for-student-social-conduct/>

General Advisor(s) and Dissertation Chair(s)

In the first semester of the program, students will be assigned a “general” faculty advisor. This advisor is the first “go-to” contact when students have a question or a concern. The general advisor is the person who approves and

disapproves conference requests for the ELDP requirement (see *Required Research Conferences*, page 12). The general advisor is not necessarily meant to guide the student through the dissertation process.

For the dissertation and with input from the students, the department will assign each student a dissertation chair to replace the general advisor. Once students have a dissertation chair, they will be able to contact that person for all academic and dissertation questions. The dissertation chair must be a currently employed full-time ELA college or tenured/tenure-track faculty member. Dissertation chairs are typically assigned in the spring semester of the second year of course work; during Qualitative Research II.

Change of Dissertation Chair

In the event dissertation chair is unable to meet the obligations of chairing the dissertation due to retirement, resignation, illness, or other extenuating circumstances a student may need to change their dissertation chair. These requests are handled and approved by the Department Head on a case-by-case basis.

Semester Structure of Class Meetings

Courses are offered each fall, spring, and summer semesters of the program. Within a semester, four class meetings are held at the Las Cruces campus and one class is conducted completely online. In between class meetings, coursework will be synchronous, asynchronous, or both. Please note that students are responsible for all the costs associated with travel, meals, lodging, and so forth that accrue from monthly trips to classes in Las Cruces.

Course Offerings

Typically, two of the required courses are offered each semester (to meet the Graduate School's residency requirement, there are two semesters in which three courses will be offered (please see the Schedule of Course Offerings below for details). Both courses are offered during weekends. Approximately once a month, students will attend one all day face-to-face class on Saturday (8:30-4:30 with an hour for lunch), and the other class all day on Sunday (8:00-3:30 with half an hour for lunch). Students must attend all class sessions. Only previously approved absences will be allowed. Emergency absences will be excused after the class only with appropriate and relevant documentation. Please check with the individual instructor for course policies regarding absences.

Incomplete Grades

Students may request an instructor to assign an Incomplete grade only if the student is unable to complete the course due to circumstances beyond the student's control that develop after the last day to withdraw from the course (see current Graduate Handbook for dates). Examples of appropriate circumstances include documented illness, documented death or crisis in the student's immediate family, etc. In no case is an Incomplete to be used to avoid the assigning of D, F, or Unsatisfactory grades for marginal or failing work; per the Graduate School, to be considered for an "Incomplete" the student MUST be currently passing the course (see instructor syllabus to define a "passing" grade). To assign an 'I' grade, the instructor will state in writing the steps necessary to complete the remaining coursework. The student will sign this document and a copy will be provided to the student. The agreed-upon work must be completed in a manner satisfactory to the instructor. The work must be completed within 12 months of the last official day of the class.

*Please note: Each course is not offered each semester. If a student is granted an "I", completion of the course may add significant time to the duration of the program. Students with "I" grades cannot take ELA 693 Dissertation Seminar until the "I" grade has been changed to a passing grade (A or B) by the instructor.

Schedule of Course Offerings

Fall #1: 2 classes, 6 credit hours

ELAD 615 Doctoral Seminar: Organizational Theory

ELAD 685 Elements of Research

Spring #1: 2 classes, 6 credit hours

ELAD 622 Quantitative Research I

ELAD 623 Qualitative Research I

Summer #1: 2 classes, 6 credit hours

ELAD 630 Concepts of Leadership in Education

ELAD 671 Foundations of Educational Administration

Fall #2: 2 classes, 6 credit hours

ELAD 682 Quantitative Research II

ELAD 670 Advanced Internship I

Spring #2: 3 classes, 9 credit hours

ELAD 683 Qualitative Research II

ELAD 670 Advanced Internship II

ELAD 650 Higher Education Law (CC/Univ)

Or

ELAD 679 Public School Law (PK-12)

Summer #2: 3 classes, 9 credits

ELAD 635 Special Problems: Scholarly Writing & the Southwest Border

ELAD 689 Evaluation Design in Education

ELAD 655 Higher Education Finance and Funding (CC/Univ)

Or

ELAD 676 Education Financial Management (PK-12)

Fall #3: 1 class, 3 credits

ELAD 693 Dissertation Seminar

Spring #3: 6 credit hours

ELAD 700 Doctoral Dissertation

Fall #3: 6 credit hours

ELAD 700 Doctoral Dissertation

Spring #3: 6 credit hours

ELAD 700 Doctoral Dissertation

Course Registration

ELDP uses a cohort model, which means we accept one group of students at a time and, for each semester of that cohort's program of study. ELDP courses are closed to everyone but the particular cohort. Students will receive a copy of the Schedule of Course Offerings (see above), which lists the specific courses each semester that will be offered to the cohort. Each semester, when the Office of the Registrar releases the courses, students will receive an email from the department regarding course registration.

Required Program of Study Submission

Students who have completed 12 credits of doctoral work are required to file the "Program of Study" form for the doctorate before registering for additional courses. This form may be obtained from the website of University Admissions: <http://prospective.nmsu.edu/graduate/forms/index.html>.

Textbooks and Course Materials

The NMSU Barnes and Noble bookstore requires all faculty members to submit book orders before the beginning of each semester. To find the book(s) for a course, go to the Barnes and Noble website, look up the course, and see the listing of books. Students are free to purchase these books from any venue. Please save all receipts for book purchases until receiving confirmation from the instructor that the book listed by the bookstore is the correct book and edition. ALWAYS be flexible and ready to return or exchange textbooks as needed.

Required Research Conferences

To graduate from ELDP, students must attend two research-focused academic conferences during your program of study. These conferences must be research and education-based. Students will be provided with a list of approved conferences during their orientation (see page 31), and may attend these conferences (or any other approved research-based conference) at any time before ELA 700 coursework. Each student must pay for all travel to and from the conference as well as hotel, meals, taxi, tips, and any other accrued expenses. The conferences are held in different cities each year, and thus the full cost to attend each conference will vary by location. It is the students' responsibility to notify the ELA Programs Coordinator when this requirement is met. Documentation of requirement completion will be placed in students' folders. Documentation required is: (1) conference form, (2) proof of paid registration, (3) copy of front cover of conference program and (4) copy of name badge. Any other documentation will be considered supplemental.

Internships

ELDP requires the students to complete two internships. Internships provide students with either experience working in an area of administration that is different from the student's regular job or experience conducting research for a program or project. Each internship placement site and scope of work is determined through consultation with the advisor. Each advisor will determine what assignments and documentation the students must complete to pass the course. In addition, students must complete 120 hours of work with the selected internship site. Although the students' on-site supervisors will provide feedback about the students' work, the advisors will determine the course based on successful completion of all agreed-upon internship activities, completion of 120 hours of work, and submission of all assignments.

Academic Standing

ELA adheres to all NMSU Graduate School policies. Commonly referred to policies include the maintenance of a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 to remain a graduate student in the department. Students who receive a "B-" grade or below will be required to repeat that course and earn, at minimum, a "B" grade in the repeated course. Courses in which a student earns a "B-" grade or below will not be counted toward graduation. Please note that the next offering of any course may be a semester or more away. Courses are scheduled to meet the upcoming cohort's Program of Study.

Additionally, students who have less than a cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of any semester will be so informed and placed on probation by the Graduate School. If, during the next enrollment period, a student fails to achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or to show substantial improvement in the quality of work, the Graduate School will suspend the student from courses for one semester. Students must re-apply to the Graduate School and to the ELA department if the student wishes to continue in the ELDP program after the semester suspension. If the GPA remains below 3.0 after readmission, the student will be suspended for one year, and again, must reapply to both the Graduate School and to ELA for readmission. Please see the Graduate School Handbook for complete details.

If a student feels that a grade was incorrect, the student may appeal the grade. Please see the Graduate School Handbook for the seven-step process to appeal a grade. Each step must be followed as described for the grade appeal to be considered by the Appeals Board. Students with one or more grades of "B-" or below cannot take ELA 693 Dissertation Seminar until the student has retaken the course and received a passing grade (A or B).

Stepping Out

Students are encouraged to take all courses with their cohort. In rare circumstances, a student may need to withdraw from a course or step out of all courses for a semester. If a student needs to withdraw from courses in the first semester of the degree program and with permission from the ELA Department Head and faculty, the student may be allowed to join the next accepted cohort. To do so, the student must submit a letter of request to return to the program prior to taking leave. In addition, students who need to step out of their current program of study need to be aware of the following policies:

- If the student did not request to be included in the next admitted cohort at the time that they left the first semester, then the student will need to reapply to the program as a new student. There is no guarantee the students who reapply will be selected again since the number and quality of applications are different each year. The student's new application will be considered in the same way as all new applications.
- If a student needs to withdraw from one or more courses once they have finished their first semester, the student must communicate the details of the withdrawal to the instructor of the course(s) and their advisor. The student may be allowed to continue taking courses with the cohort in subsequent semesters but will need to wait to take the missed courses(es) until offered to the next cohort. In consequence, the student may need to enroll in more courses than other cohort members in order to make up missed courses(es). *Please note: ELA only schedules courses to provide the program of study for existing cohorts. *Make-up courses beyond these regularly scheduled cohort courses are not offered.* Additionally, and according to Graduate School policy, **students must finish all coursework** before taking the comprehensive exam. Students who have not completed all coursework, (even though their cohort colleagues may have), will not be able to move from coursework to comprehensive exam preparation by taking ELA 700 classes (see below for more information on these hours).
- If a student needs to withdraw from the University for two regular semesters (fall and spring), they should request a leave of absence from the Graduate School. The student must submit a formal written letter through the ELA Department Head, directed to the Dean of the Graduate School. Emails will not be accepted. The letter of request should include the beginning date of absence and the anticipated ending date for the period of absence.

- A graduate student on leave of absence will be expected not to use university facilities and place no demands upon the university faculty and staff, and therefore will pay no fees. Time spent on leave of absence status will not be counted toward time limits. A graduate student who fails to register for one calendar year without obtaining a leave of absence from the Graduate School will be considered withdrawn from the University and must make a formal application to the Graduate School for readmission at least 30 days prior to the semester that the student plans to enroll. Please consult the Graduate Catalog for specific details.
- **Students who do not enroll in coursework for two or more regular academic semesters (fall and spring)** without formal leave will be considered to have dropped out of the program. If the student wishes to resume studies, they must complete two steps in seeking readmission. First, the student must formally petition the ELA Department/faculty to return to the program. This petition should be a written letter to the ELA faculty as a whole, explaining the ways in which the student will be able to successfully finish their program if readmitted, along with what changes the student will make to ensure their success. The letter should be sent to the student's advisor, who then requests that the petition is put on the next ELA Faculty Meeting agenda for a discussion and vote. The student will be notified of the decision by the advisor. Second, if the student is accepted back into their program, they must reapply to the Graduate School.
- **Students who have finished their coursework, but not yet passed the comprehensive exam** and are absent without Graduate School leave for two or less regular academic semesters (fall and spring) must complete two steps in seeking readmission. First, students will be required to formally petition the ELA faculty in writing, for readmission to the program. In the written petition, the student must explain why they are now able to complete the degree program. Faculty will make a ruling and the result will be communicated to the student by either the student's previous dissertation chair or the ELA Department Head. If ELA allows the student to return to the program, the student must then reapply to the Graduate School.
- **Students who have finished their coursework, but not yet passed the comprehensive exam** and are absent without Graduate School leave for more than two regular academic semesters (fall and spring) will be required to complete the first two steps above. In addition, students will be required to retake the following courses: ELA 622 Quantitative Research I, ELA 623 Qualitative Research I, ELA 682 Quantitative

Research II, and ELA 683 Qualitative Research II. The student will need to retake these course before they are allowed to take their comprehensive exam. To avoid retaking these courses, students should petition the unit for readmission prior to their fourth semester of absence.

- **Students who have finished coursework and passed the comprehensive exam**, but stopped enrolling in ELA 700 hours for two to more regular academic semesters (fall and spring) without requesting a formal leave of absence from the Graduate School (see Graduate Handbook for the steps) will need to formally petition the ELA faculty, in writing, for readmission to the program. In their petition, the student must explain why they are now able to complete the degree program. Faculty will make a ruling and the result will be communicated to the student by either the student's previous dissertation chair or the ELA Department Head.
- **Students who have finished coursework and passed the comprehensive exam**, and are absent without Graduate School leave for two regular academic semesters (fall and spring) must reapply to the ELA program. If accepted, and, in addition to taking in addition to taking ELA 622 Quantitative Research I, ELA 623 Qualitative Research I, ELA 682 Quantitative Research II, and ELA 683 Qualitative Research II, the student may be required to retake additional courses or retake the comprehensive exam as specified by the ELA faculty.
- If more than ten regular academic semesters (fall/spring), or five years have elapsed since the date of the comprehensive examination, the doctoral candidate will be required to retake the courses listed earlier and retake their comprehensive examination before allowed to hold their proposal hearing and final defense.

Dismissal from ELDP

The School of TPAL adheres to the NMSU Code of Ethics and its accompanying Standards of Conduct promotes excellence in research and teaching at NMSU by identifying the principles, values, and expected behaviors that NMSU considers fundamental to the successful development of faculty and graduate students. The Code of Ethics has as its foundation the expectation that faculty and graduate students will act with integrity and respect, in an environment of shared responsibility for promoting excellence in research, teaching and professional service. The Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct in this document describes accepted practices for Graduate Students, Faculty, Programs/Departments and the Graduate school. To obtain further information regarding NMSU's Code of Ethics and

the Graduate School's dismissal policy, please visit:
<https://gradschool.nmsu.edu/graduate-ethics-standards/>

Academic Conduct of Graduate Students

Students should consult the "Student Code of Conduct" section in the Student Handbook (see below for links) for information regarding definitions of misconduct. If the standards of conduct are deemed to have been breached by violations such as plagiarism, fabrication of data, etc., then the policies and procedures detailed in the Student Code of Conduct will be followed. If a student is unclear about the definition of plagiarism, cheating, etc., he or she should speak to their ELA advisor and/or course instructors. The burden of misunderstanding falls upon the student.

Dissertation Hours

To complete the doctoral degree, students must take a minimum of 18 credits of ELA 700 Doctoral Dissertation. It is common for students to take more than these in order to complete the dissertation. ELA 700 allows students to work with their dissertation chair on a one-on-one basis. Each dissertation chair will have different guidelines and procedures for his or her students to follow. What a dissertation chair tells one student does not necessarily apply to other students with different dissertation chairs. Each dissertation chair determines how to assess the progress students are making on their dissertations. Students who are deemed to not be making progress will receive a grade of "U" (unsatisfactory) instead of "PR" (making progress). Students who receive three "U" grades in ELA 600 and ELA 700 Doctoral Dissertation may be dismissed from the program at the request of the dissertation chair or Department Head. Students are not required to register for ELA 600 or ELA 700 hours during the summer, as faculty members are on 9-month contracts, and therefore, not on contract during the summer.

Dissertation Committee

Once students have been assigned a dissertation chair (typically in the spring semester of the second year of coursework during Qualitative Research II), the student and dissertation chair will work together to select faculty to be on the dissertation committee. This is the committee that will hear and grade the comprehensive exam, assess the dissertation proposal, and convene for the final dissertation defense. Once the committee is selected and has met for the student's comprehensive exam, a change of committee member will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on extreme reasons (i.e., committee member illness, faculty retirements, and faculty sabbaticals).

The dissertation committee must be made up of four members. In addition to the dissertation chair (please see page 9), there are three other committee members on a dissertation committee. One of the other three members must be a currently employed full time ELA college or tenure/tenure track faculty member. A third committee member is most typically also a currently employed full time ELA college or tenure/tenure track faculty member. Under unique conditions, however, this third “departmental” committee member may be a graduate of the ELA doctoral program who and/or has specific expertise in the focus of the student’s research. To be considered, the student would need to submit to his/her dissertation chair a memo detailing the unique expertise the student is seeking. This member must be approved by the Dissertation Chair and hold or be granted “Graduate Faculty Status”. The third person must be vetted for conflict of interest and may not serve in a direct supervisory roll over the student. The fourth member must be chosen from a department outside of ELA and serves as the Graduate School Dean’s representative. This person is responsible for completing paperwork, conducting the vote, and verifying that the exam was fair.

All dissertation committee members must hold Graduate Faculty Status as awarded by the Graduate School. The Graduate School lists all current graduate faculty members on its website.

At the end of each committee hearing, each member will vote to pass, fail, or adjourn the examination to a later date. Students will receive a “pass” if three or more committee members so vote. Students will fail if two or more members vote no. A third option is to adjourn the meeting. The meeting will be adjourned (postponed and rescheduled within three weeks of the date of the previous hearing) if there are at least two votes to adjourn.

All committee members must “attend” the comprehensive exam hearing, the proposal meeting, and the final dissertation defense. Attendance can be through synchronous connection methods such as Skype. Each of these three meetings of the committee is scheduled for two hours.

Comprehensive Exam/Pre-Proposal Hearing (Exam Hearing #1)

In the semester after the student completes his or her final regular courses, the student is eligible to begin taking ELA 700 (Doctoral Dissertation) hours and preparing for the comprehensive exam. Students who do not complete the comprehensive exam in the first semester after completion of regular coursework can no longer enroll in ELA 700 hours; instead, the student will be enrolled in ELA 600 hours until the comprehensive exam is passed. ELA 600 hours do not count toward the 18 required hours of dissertation credits

(ELAD 700), thus a delay in completing the comprehensive exam will cause the student to have to enroll and pay for credit hours that do not count toward the degree. For the spring semester, the comprehensive exam must be taken by April 15th (unless it falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be the Friday before April 15th). For the fall semester, the comprehensive exam must be taken by November 15th (unless it falls on a weekend or holiday, the deadline will be the Friday before November 15th).

If more than six regular academic semesters (fall/spring), or three years have elapsed since the date of the comprehensive examination, the doctoral candidate will be required to participate in the Review Panel (see page 22), retake the courses listed earlier, and take another comprehensive examination before admission to the final examination.

All doctoral programs at NMSU are required to have a comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam in ELA consists of writing a pre-proposal. The proposal is a mini-version of the first three chapters of the dissertation (typically 75-100 pages). Please see Appendix A, Checklist for Pre-Proposal/Comprehensive Exam. Students will work closely with their dissertation chair to flesh out the details of the dissertation's problem statement, background to why the topic is important to education, the study's purpose and significance to the field of educational administration, a summary of key areas of the literature review, and a detailed description of the research method/design, selection of participants, research question(s) and/or research hypothesis(es), and method and description of data analyses procedures for a complete list of topics to include based on type of research methodology used).

Students must provide their committee with a copy of their final document at least 10 working days before the scheduled exam meeting. (Note: the Graduate School suggests seven working days; ELA requires document submission ten working days before the exam). The dissertation committee will hold a two-hour meeting with each student to discuss their proposal, provide feedback on the direction of the dissertation, and formally vote on whether or not the student has passed the comprehensive exam. This vote is then sent to the Graduate School for documentation (please see the Graduate School Handbook for a description of what forms students need to submit to the Graduate School. Students who pass this exam have now advanced to candidacy and can start work on their dissertation.

Dissertation Proposal Hearing/IRB Submission (Exam Hearing #2)

Once students pass their comprehensive exam, they will work closely with their dissertation chair to complete a full final version of the first three

chapters of the dissertation. Recommendations made by committee members in the pre-proposal hearing must be addressed both within the document as well as in the Matrix of Revisions form. Please see Appendix B.

The proposal document must conform to the most current APA style rules. Students will not be allowed to schedule the dissertation proposal hearing until the dissertation chair certifies the document is ready to be evaluated by the student's dissertation committee. With the chair's agreement, the student will schedule a meeting with the committee to propose that she or he conduct the fully developed research study. All recommendations agreed upon by the committee in the pre-proposal hearing must be reflected in the final proposal document. Students will, in writing, identify how each change was addressed. At the end of the meeting, the committee votes on whether the student is ready to begin his or her research. Once this committee votes yes, the student may submit the research request to the Institutional Review Board (IRB). This is the research compliance office that must approve any research done by NMSU employees and students. When the IRB gives its approval, the student may then begin to work on the remaining dissertation chapters.

Dissertation Final Defense (Exam Hearing #3)

When all chapters of the dissertation are completed to the satisfaction of the dissertation chair, the student may schedule the final two-hour dissertation defense meeting with his or her committee members. Again, a copy of the final document must be given to committee members at least 10 working days before the scheduled defense meeting. At the end of the meeting, the committee will vote on whether the student has successfully completed this final exam and can now be called "Doctor." This vote is submitted to the Graduate School for documentation. The student must then incorporate all changes recommended by committee members and finalize the dissertation according to the guidelines and timelines posted on the Graduate School's webpage. It is always the student's responsibility to adhere to Graduate School timelines, forms, and procedures for each required step of the doctoral degree process.

Review Panel

After six regular academic semesters (fall/spring), or three years of taking ELAD 600/700 hours and NOT holding your pre-proposal hearing (comprehensive exam), a student must have a face-to-face Review Panel to determine a course of action. At this time, the student in collaboration with the Review Panel will discuss the best course of action. If the student continues with the program post-Review Panel, the student at a minimum will need to enroll in Quantitative I, Qualitative I, and Dissertation Seminar

at their own expense. Additional courses, may be added should the committee deem it is in the student's best interest and for the purpose of their dissertation. A program of study will be created by the Review Panel, with the course retake process culminating with Dissertation Seminar.

Dissertation Alternative for Ed.D. Student (TBA)

An alternative culminating project (i.e. action research project, capstone, professional project) is an option for the Ed.D. students, however Ed.D. students may still choose to do a dissertation, but have other (more professionally practical) options. Students need to defer to their dissertation chair for dissertation alternative options best fit for them.

More information will be provided throughout the program and faculty members are available to answer specific questions. The ELA faculty encourages all students to review past dissertations (housed in the NMSU library) over the course of the program so the dissertation format becomes familiar.

NMSU Graduate Student Resources

American Indian Program (575) 646-4207
American Indian Student Center
3015 Andrew Wall Place
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001

The American Indian Program (AIP) offers services that help American Indian students succeed and achieve their post-secondary goals. We are committed to supporting students on both a personal and an academic level. The AIP nurtures student success by connecting students to on-campus resources and support services, which help students acclimate to NMSU's diverse campus. The AIP provides students with guidance and academic advising, scholarship opportunities, employer recruiting visits, computer and social outlets, library resources, and referral to other campus resources designed to promote student success. <https://aip.nmsu.edu/aip-contact-info/>

ASNMSU (575) 646-4415
2nd Floor Corbett Center

The Associated Students of New Mexico State University (ASNMSU) was established as the student government in 1910 with, the purpose of serving the students of New Mexico State University. <http://asnmsu.nmsu.edu/>

Black Programs (575) 646-4208
Garcia Center, Room 135

The mission of Black Programs, is to unite students of African-American, Caribbean and African descent by increasing the awareness and appreciation of Black history through educational, cultural, social and academic programs. Our mission includes maintaining a vital support network to help students explore their chosen academic fields and succeed in completing their degree program. Black Programs gives the students the support and connections needed to help realize the full potential of each individual. We also deeply encourage students from all backgrounds to participate in our events and student organizations. It is very important for everyone, no matter what their racial/ethnic, religious background, or sexual preference to know they are welcome here and this is a safe place for them to study and have fun. <http://blackprograms.nmsu.edu>

Campus Activities (575) 646-3200
Corbett Center, Room 235

Campus Activities offers out of the classroom involvement - an essential complement to the student's academics. Leadership and personal growth opportunities are offered through student organizations, activity programming, Greek Life, and National Student Exchange and Union Program Council. <http://campusactivities.nmsu.edu/index.php>

Chicano Programs (575) 646-4206
Garcia Center, Room 128

Chicano Programs supports students of ALL ethnic/racial backgrounds. However, for the purposes of our work, the word "Chicano" in the name of our office, is intended to also include students who identify as Hispanic, Mexican-American, Latino, Puerto Rican, U.S. Cuban, etc. The program specializes in supporting first-generation/low income college students in navigating the university environment. Chicano Programs at NMSU is a support service that promotes and empowers all student success through education, advocacy and development of cultural literacy.
<https://chicano.nmsu.edu>

Graduate Catalog

Find out important academic information specifically for graduate students. The catalog should be kept throughout coursework work at NMSU. It contains detailed information about degree requirements and course descriptions. <http://catalog.nmsu.edu/graduate/>

Graduate School Assistantships

ELA has a limited number of Graduate Assistantships available for our students. The assistantship can be awarded up to 20 hours a week per semester. To qualify, students must be enrolled full-time (9 credit hours), not be otherwise employed, and be in academic good standing. To apply for a Graduate Assistantship in ELA, please contact Alma Meza in the ELA office.

LGBT + Programs (575) 646-7031
Corbett Center, Room 204A

LGBT+ Programs is committed to the wellness and success of all students, faculty, and staff in their expression of gender and sexuality at NMSU. LGBT+ Programs provides advocacy, resources, education, and programming to the college community. We welcome all students to utilize our facility, which includes a computer lab, LGBT+ themed library, and lounge. LGBT+ Programs exists to meet the needs of our LGBT+ students

and to welcome and encourage the expression and success of all NMSU students. We strive to help the campus community develop policies and strategies to meet the needs of our diverse students, faculty, and staff. Our mission is to promote inclusion and diversity at NMSU.
<https://lgbt.nmsu.edu>

Student Organizations

You can find a list of various student organizations at NMSU. They are classified by the type of organization they are. Of particular interest is the Graduate Student Council, which is the student organization that represents graduate student issues in various NMSU administration committees.

<http://upc.nmsu.edu/charter/list.php?select=all>

Student Union (575) 646-4411 **Corbett Center Student Union**

The student union is home to various food facilities, post office, student government, game room, computer lab, study areas, ATMs, meeting room space and administrative offices.

<http://www.nmsu.edu/General/Maps/buildings/corbett.html>

Writing Center (575) 646-5297 **Clara Belle Williams Hall, Room 102**

The Writing Center provides one-on-one writing consultation, feedback and brainstorming assistance on any writing assignment for all undergraduate and graduate students.

<http://www.nmsu.edu/~english/resources/writingcenter/>

NMSU General Student Resources

Barnes and Noble bookstore (575) 646-4431 **1400 East University**

The NMSU Bookstore is one source for all course materials, official NMSU apparel and computer products at special discounted student prices.

<http://www.nmsubookstore.com/>

Canvas

Canvas is a web-based, interactive, e-learning management system used by NMSU. It allows for instructors to use the Internet to deliver a course and allows for distance education students to continue in their education without being physically on the NMSU campus. <http://learn.nmsu.edu>

Course Schedules

The University's course schedule is posted on the NMSU website every semester and contains important information about classes, registration, tuition, and fees.

<http://www.nmsu.edu/course/>

ID Card Services (575) 646-4835

First Floor Corbett Center Room 137

All regularly enrolled students and Faculty/Staff are required to have an NMSU identification (ID) card. Students must present a valid ID card to university units and/or personnel to verify eligibility to access campus facilities, services, and privileges. Student ID cards also works as library cards. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~idsvs/>

myNMSU

myNMSU is a one stop site where students check nmsu.edu emails, register for classes, check on student employment, view their grade history and check on the status of their financial aid. <http://my.nmsu.edu>

NMSU Academic Calendar

The calendar provides a list of important dates for all students, faculty, and staff of NMSU. http://www.nmsu.edu/General/academic_calendar.html

NMSU Student Handbook

In the Handbook, you can find various student policies concerning academic and non-academic misconduct, discipline guidelines as well as guidelines for the appeal process. <http://deanofstudents.nmsu.edu/student-handbook/>

Office of the Registrar (575) 646-3411

Educational Services Building

The Office of the Registrar handles all admissions for NMSU. One can apply for a degree through the office, as well as order duplicate diplomas or request transcripts. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~registra/index.html>

Office of the Registrar, Educational Services Building

Official transcripts and academic records can be requested through the NMSU Registrar's Office. Student enrollment status is continually updated and unofficial transcripts and academic records are maintained for all past or present students. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~registra/transcripts/>

Financial Support

Financial Aid and Scholarships (575) 646-4105

Educational Services Building

The Financial Aid Office provides assistance and information on scholarships, grants, student loans, and work-study employment. <http://fa.nmsu.edu/>

University Accounts Receivable (575) 646-4911

Educational Services Building University Accounts Receivable handles student tuition and fee billing and receivables. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~uar/>

Campus Services

Campus Tutoring Services (575) 646-6050 or (575) 646-1342

Student Success Center - Zuhl Library, 2nd Level

Campus Tutoring Services provides afternoon, evening, and weekend tutoring to NMSU students at no charge. Online tutoring is also available. Appointments are not required. For specific information about subjects, hours, & locations, visit the website. <http://ssc.nmsu.edu/zuhl/tutoring>

Career Services (575) 646-1631

Garcia Annex, Room 224

Career Services offers career fairs, career advising, on-campus recruiting, practice interview sessions, resume reviews, and workshops. All students are eligible to use services. <http://careerservices.nmsu.edu/>

Counseling Center (575) 646-2731

Garcia Annex, Room 100

The Counseling Center provides individual and group counseling services for students at no charge. Counseling is available for issues such as stress, eating disorders, incest, gender, and family concerns. Crisis assistance is offered on a walk-in basis. All main campus students are eligible to use services. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~counsel/cc/index.html>

Military and Veterans Affairs (575) 646-4524

Corbett Center, Room 244

New Mexico State University (NMSU) is a military and veteran friendly university, striving to provide the best possible service to our current and former service members as they pursue their educational goals. Military and Veterans Programs (MVP) promotes lifelong learning and professional development for military, veterans, and their families by offering several benefits for military and veteran students. <https://mvp.nmsu.edu>

Student Accessibility Services (575) 646-6840
Corbett Center, Room 244

Services for Students with Disabilities is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for qualified students in accordance with state and federal laws. SAS offers a variety of services to students with documented physical, learning, or psychological disabilities. Students must bring in documentation supporting the needed accommodation, fill out our Student Information Form, and meet with the SSD Coordinator before accommodations can be made. <http://www.nmsu.edu/~ssd/>

Health & Wellness

Aggie Fit (575) 646-2907

The program offers access to both the Activity Center & Natatorium and group fitness classes and participation in intramurals.

<http://wellness.nmsu.edu/aggiefit/>

Aquatic Center (575) 646-3518

Aquatic Center, on Stewart Street between Locust and Williams Ave.

The Aquatic Center is NMSU's aquatic resource center. It provides the venue for intercollegiate sports, intermural sports and recreational swimming.

<http://recsport.nmsu.edu/aquatics/>

Campus Health Center (575) 646-1512

Corner of Breland and Stewart streets

The Campus Health Center offers outpatient primary healthcare by a staff of physicians, nurse practitioners, and other healthcare professionals. Full and part-time NMSU undergraduate and graduate students with valid NMSU ID and verification of enrollment are eligible for services. Fees are charged for Lab, X-ray, or Pharmacy services, as well as for any medical supplies.

Insurance claim filing assistance is offered with proof of insurance and receipts. Students may obtain additional information on supplemental health insurance through the SHC Insurance Office. <http://wellness.nmsu.edu/shc/>

Recreational Sports/Activity Center (575) 646-2907

Open recreation and weight room facilities are available to students with a full-time ID or paid activity pass. Intramurals, outdoor recreation, and Fitness/Wellness programming are available. Published open recreation and weight room hours are available at the center.

<http://www.nmsu.edu/~recsport/>

Library Services

NMSU Libraries (575) 646-2932

NMSU Libraries offer over 1 million volumes in 2 locations on campus: Zuhl Library and Branson Hall Library. Any permanent New Mexico resident can check out a total of 5 books at any one time from the NMSU Libraries.

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/index.shtml>

Zuhl Library Copy Center (575) 646-6910

Zuhl Library, 1st floor

The NMSU Zuhl Copy Center provides a fast, cost-effective and high-quality document duplicating and finishing service to the University community.

<http://lib.nmsu.edu/depts/accserv/copycenter.shtml>

Parking & Transportation

Crimson Cab (575) 524-TAXI (8294)

Crimson Cab provides a FREE cab ride with a valid NMSU ID. Call 575.524.TAXI 7 days a week from 9 pm to 5 am. Don't drink and drive.

<http://asnmsu.nmsu.edu/aggie-transportation/crimson-cab/>

Parking Department (575) 646-1839

725 College Drive (at the northeast corner of College Dr. & Union Ave.)

The NMSU Parking Department is responsible for administering the parking program for NMSU. This includes issuing parking permits, enforcing parking regulations, and maintenance and development of parking lots. The free lots are indicated by a brown color on the official parking map. Permits are not required to park in free lots. Visitors may use metered spaces, obtain a free weekly visitor parking permit from the Parking Department, or obtain a free daily e-permit on-line at <http://www.campusvisitor.com>.

<http://www.nmsuparking.com/>

Pete's Pickup (575) 646-1111

Campus can be a little scary late at night. Whether you've been studying late at the library, had a late extracurricular meeting, or if you're out late on campus for any other reason, you can always call Pete's Pickup for a safe escort to your car or dorm. Pete's Pickup will take you anywhere on campus.

<http://asnmsu.nmsu.edu/programs/petespickup/index.html>

Computer & Technical Services

Accounts and Passwords (575) 646-1840

Access to a variety of NMSU online services are based on usernames and passwords. NMSU students can activate the new credential by going to <http://my.nmsu.edu> and clicking on the "Register Now" button.

<http://ict.nmsu.edu/eaccounts.html>

ICT Customer Service and Helpdesk (575) 646-1840

ICT Building (Across from O'Donnell Hall, behind the New Science Hall) Room 140

ICT Customer Service provides assistance for NMSU's voice, video, data, network and Information Technology needs at NMSU. The ICT Helpdesk in Room 140 also provides walk-in support for many common software and desktop computer issues. <http://ict.nmsu.edu/csc/index.html>

Student Technology

The Student Technology site is your one-stop source for information and instruction about technology at NMSU. The site can be used as a reference for computing-related questions. <http://studenttech.nmsu.edu/>

Student Information Management (575) 646-PETE (7383) Educational Services Building

Student Information Management (Pete's one-stop-shop) works in partnership with the Division of Student Success and the NMSU community to provide functional, technical, and business intelligence support services for student administrative and reporting systems. Contact by email is available also: onestop@nmsu.edu or <http://sim.nmsu.edu/>

Campus Safety

Fire Department (575) 646-2519

Corner of Wells St. and Research Ave.

The NMSU Dept. of Fire & Emergency Services (DFES) provides emergency response for the NMSU main campus. DFES also provides fire prevention and various forms of public education related to emergency services.

<http://www.fire.nmsu.edu/>

NMSU Police (575) 646-3311
725 College Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88003

The NMSU Police Department is a full service, 24-hour a day police agency, complete with its own enhanced 911 emergency dispatch center, criminal investigations section, and training staff. <http://www.nmsupolice.com>

Appendix A: List of Approved Conferences

Spring

ACPA Annual Conference

<http://convention.myacpa.org/boston2019/>

American Association of Community Colleges (AACC)

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/newsevents/Events/convention2>

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

<http://www.aera.net/>

Conference on Academic Research in Education (CARE)

<https://www.care-conference.net>

Critical Race Studies in Education Association (CRSEA)

<http://www.crsea.org>

NASPA Annual Conference

<https://www.naspa.org/about>

The Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC)

<http://www.cscconline.org/>

Fall

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

<http://www.ashe.ws/>

International Leadership Association (ILA)

<http://www.ila-net.org/>

National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME)

<https://www.nameorg.org>

National Indian Education Association (NIEA)

<http://www.niea.org/>

Research on Women and Education (RWE)

<http://www.rwesig.net/>

University Council for Educational Administration (UCEA)

<http://www.ucea.org/>

Appendix B: Checklist for Pre-Proposal/Comprehensive Exam

- Completed Pre-Proposal draft of chapters 1-3
- 1-inch margins for entire document
- Entire document adheres to APA 6th formatting
- Recommended page allotment for each chapter (Chapter 1: 14-18 pages, Chapter 2: 50 pages minimum, Chapter 3:14-20)
- Consent Form (if applicable)
- Interview Questions (if applicable)
- Participant Recruitment Materials (Call for Participation Messages, Flyers, etc.)
- Completed Table of Contents
- Full list of references checked and cross checked
- Spelling and Grammar Correct
- Copy of PowerPoint Presentation (3-4 slides per page/black and white)
- Light refreshments/beverages
- Pre-proposal must be completed by April 15th of spring semester and November 15th of fall semester

Student Name: _____ Student Signature: _____
Date: _____

Chair Name: _____ Chair Signature: _____
Date: _____

